

U.S. Rubber Co. Exonerated by Coroner Jury

A coroner's jury exonerated the U. S. Rubber Co., Friday of any blame in the death of the late Lloyd Jones, of Greenup, who succumbed at Silver Cross hospital on June 11 to burns received in an accident the previous day.

According to the verdict returned following the inquest conducted at the Blood and Grant funeral home, the burns were suffered by Jones and a fellow employe when they took a "short cut" in attempting to sample acid from a tank car.

"FROM THE EVIDENCE submitted, we, the jury, believe Jones took a short cut and opened the cap of the tank car without opening the safety vent. Pressure in the car caused the acid to be spilled over him. We exonerate the U. S. Rubber Co. of any blame," the jurors report stated.

Jones, who was 41 at the time of his death, was working at the Kankakee unit of Joliet Arsenal with Robert Dunn, 24, of Greenup, when the accident occurred. Jones' death was due to shock from second and third degree burns over 70 per cent of his body, according to Coroner Willard G. Blood. Dunn was released from the hospital after treatment for second and third degree burns.

IN ANOTHER inquest conducted by Coroner Blood Friday, a truck driver was exonerated of any blame in the accident which caused fatal injuries to James Palefrone, 63, of 30 E. Cass St.

"Palefrone died of a skull fracture and crushing internal injuries accidentally received when the car he was driving struck a tractor-trailer at the entrance to the Welco station, routes 66 and 66-A on June 26, at 10 20 p. m. He died at St. Joseph's hospital June 29 at 11 a. m.

"We the jury find that the truck driver (Earl Pike) had his truck parked off the highway, preparatory to entering the highway when the car Palefrone was driving crossed the road and struck the cab of the truck. We exonerate Earl Pike of any blame."

A VERDICT also was returned by the coroner's jury in the death